

Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP79T00975A015900040001-1

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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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31 March 1970

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No. 0077/70
31 March 1970

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Cambodia: The government apparently hopes to enlist international support to meet the growing Vietnamese Communist threat.

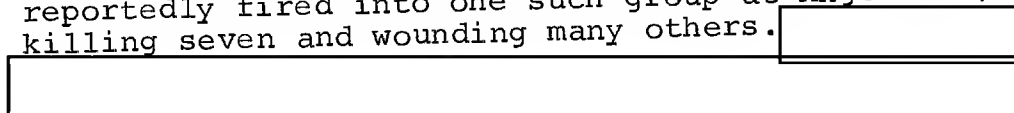
Prime Minister Lon Nol appealed to the United Nations on 30 March for an observer team to verify Communist border violations. Nol also indicated that he may eventually ask friendly countries, including the US, for military materiel.

The government's assertions that sizable numbers of Vietnamese Communist troops have made deep incursions into Cambodian territory may be part of Phnom Penh's efforts to dramatize its plight.



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There have been no new antigovernment demonstrations in major provincial towns. Western correspondents have encountered some bands of machete-wielding Sihanouk partisans on several main roads south of Phnom Penh, however. Cambodian troops reportedly fired into one such group at Angtassom, killing seven and wounding many others.

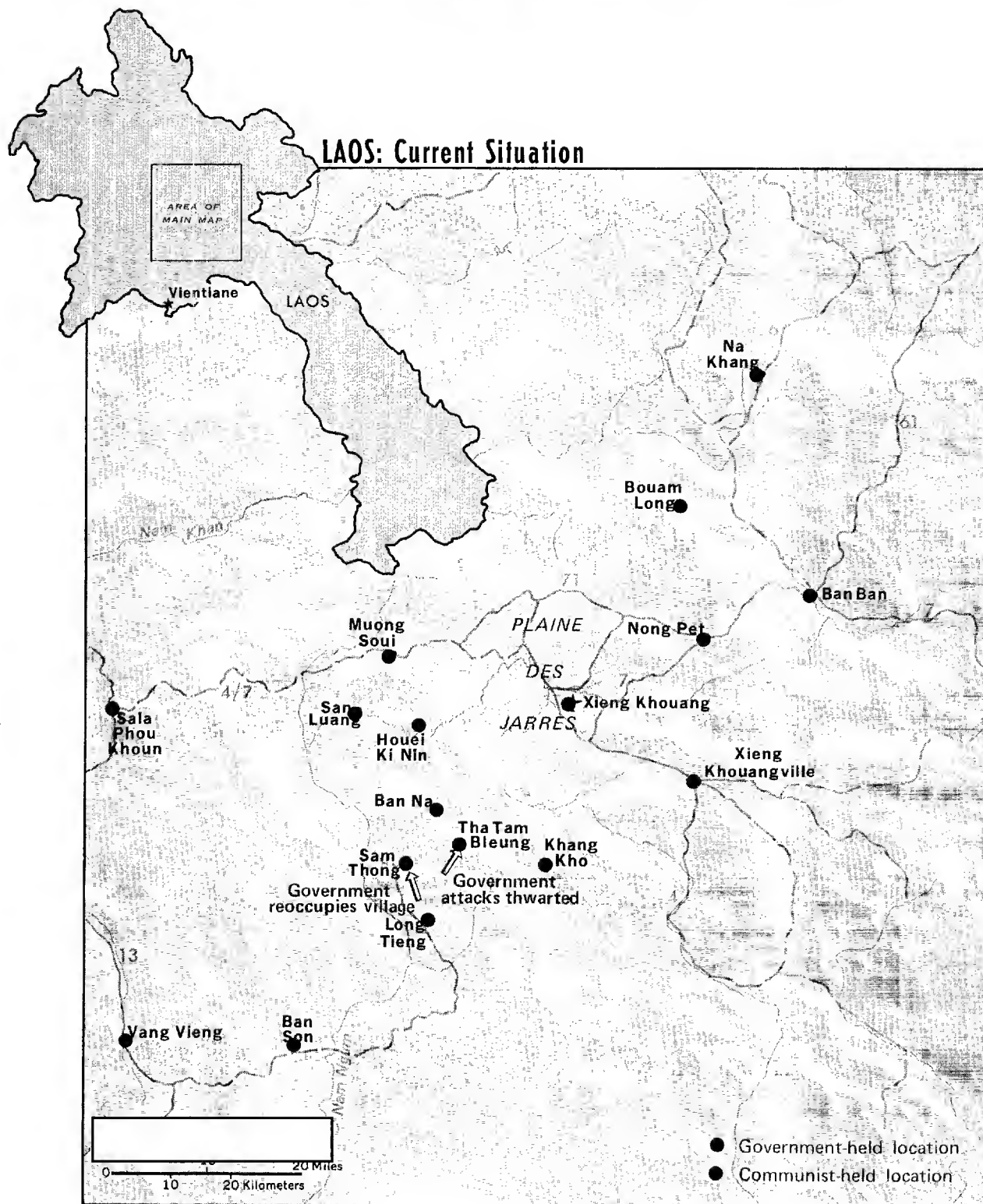


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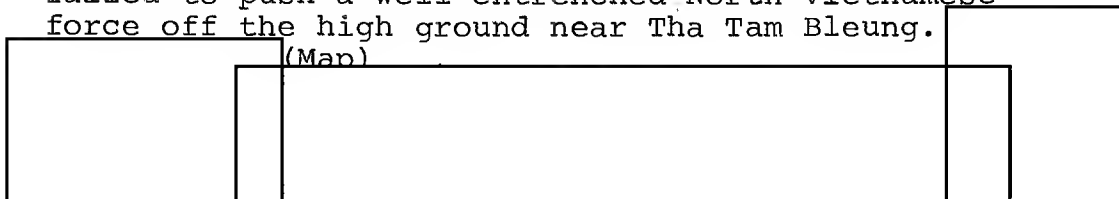
Laos: The government is continuing to strengthen its hold over the Long Tieng area.

North Vietnamese troops on the outskirts of Sam Thong have withdrawn several miles to the northeast in the face of a government sweep operation. The village is now in government hands, and government troops are moving against the last remaining enemy position approximately one mile to the east.

Recent government advances have boosted troop morale, but Vang Pao's forces still have a long way to go before the approaches to Long Tieng can be considered secure. There are some 3,000 North Vietnamese troops operating in the area, and additional reinforcements should arrive in the area in the next few days.

Although improving weather conditions have facilitated heavy air strikes against enemy positions, so far government efforts to reoccupy territory north of Long Tieng have been strongly rebuffed. On 30 March, for example, government guerrillas again failed to push a well-entrenched North Vietnamese force off the high ground near Tha Tam Bleung.

(Map)



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Pakistan: President Yahya Khan's announcement of guidelines for a new constitution and for elections in the fall has moved Pakistan another step toward civilian rule.

In a nationwide speech on 28 March, Yahya outlined a legal framework that the constituent assembly, to be elected on 5 October, must follow. This framework calls for a federal system with maximum provincial autonomy, but includes adequate financial powers for the central government. It also stipulates, in a gesture to economically depressed East Pakistan, that the constitution should include a statutory provision for removing all disparities among the various provinces within a fixed time period.

The specific regional breakdown of seats for the 313-member national constituent assembly was spelled out in a presidential order yesterday. It insures that East Pakistan, with 56 percent of the population, will have a majority. Yahya will have the power to veto the constitution drawn up by the members, in which case the assembly would be dissolved.

Yahya announced that provincial elections will be held not later than 22 October. His presidential order suggests that West Pakistan--to be dissolved by 1 July--will be replaced by the four major ethnolinguistic units that were merged in 1955 to form the west wing.

Successful completion of the election schedule now depends primarily upon the politicians. Their willingness and ability to control their supporters will be the determining factor in assuring the peace and order that the President considers essential for holding elections. Yahya has again declared that violence will not be tolerated, and his recent crack-down on extreme leftists in East Pakistan gives substance to this warning.

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India: Prime Minister Gandhi's loss of party strength in elections for the upper house of parliament last week is unlikely to have any significant effect on government stability.

In the elections held in the state legislatures, Mrs. Gandhi's Congress Party lost about 15 percent of its strength in the upper house. Elections for one third of the members of parliament's upper house are held every two years.

The decline in Mrs. Gandhi's support stems from Congress Party electoral defeats at the state level in 1967 and 1969, and from the split in the party last November. Nevertheless, the party apparently won fewer seats than expected in contests in which it needed support from other parties, and this may raise some doubt about Mrs. Gandhi's ability to make satisfactory electoral arrangements with other parties.

Although Mrs. Gandhi's party will have only a little over a third of the 240 seats, it remains the largest party in that body. With support from other parties Mrs. Gandhi should still be able to gain approval for most legislation, although this cannot be assured. The Prime Minister is not directly responsible to the upper house, but difficult constitutional procedures are required to pass bills without its concurrence.



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Argentina: The kidnaping of the Paraguayan consul early last week has set off counterterrorist activity by members of several right-wing organizations.

Soon after the abduction of the consul, the home of the president of the Communist-dominated Argentine University Federation was bombed; one employee was killed. An attempt on Sunday to kidnap a Soviet commercial attaché failed. The assailants in both cases have not been positively identified, but they probably were members of such right-wing groups as the nationalist, anti-Semitic Tacuara or the Organized Argentine Nationalist Movement.



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Both the left and right-wing extremists may now be provoked to further spectacular incidents. The leftists have already made threats against US businessmen.



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Dominican Republic: The major opposition parties have threatened to abstain from the elections in May if President Balaguer does not resign.

When he declared for re-election last week, Balaguer said he would hand over his office to the Supreme Court president while he campaigns from 16 April until the elections on 16 May. The opposition ultimatum stipulates that Balaguer must resign for the remainder of his term, which expires on 16 August. They have given him until tomorrow to reply. The strategy of the opposition parties is ostensibly based on their distrust of the government and a desire to ensure fair elections.

The President probably is reluctant to accede to the opposition's demand. If he compromises, Balaguer opens the door to more demands backed by the threat of abstention. Moreover, he risks encouraging the formation of a coalition, which could threaten his position.



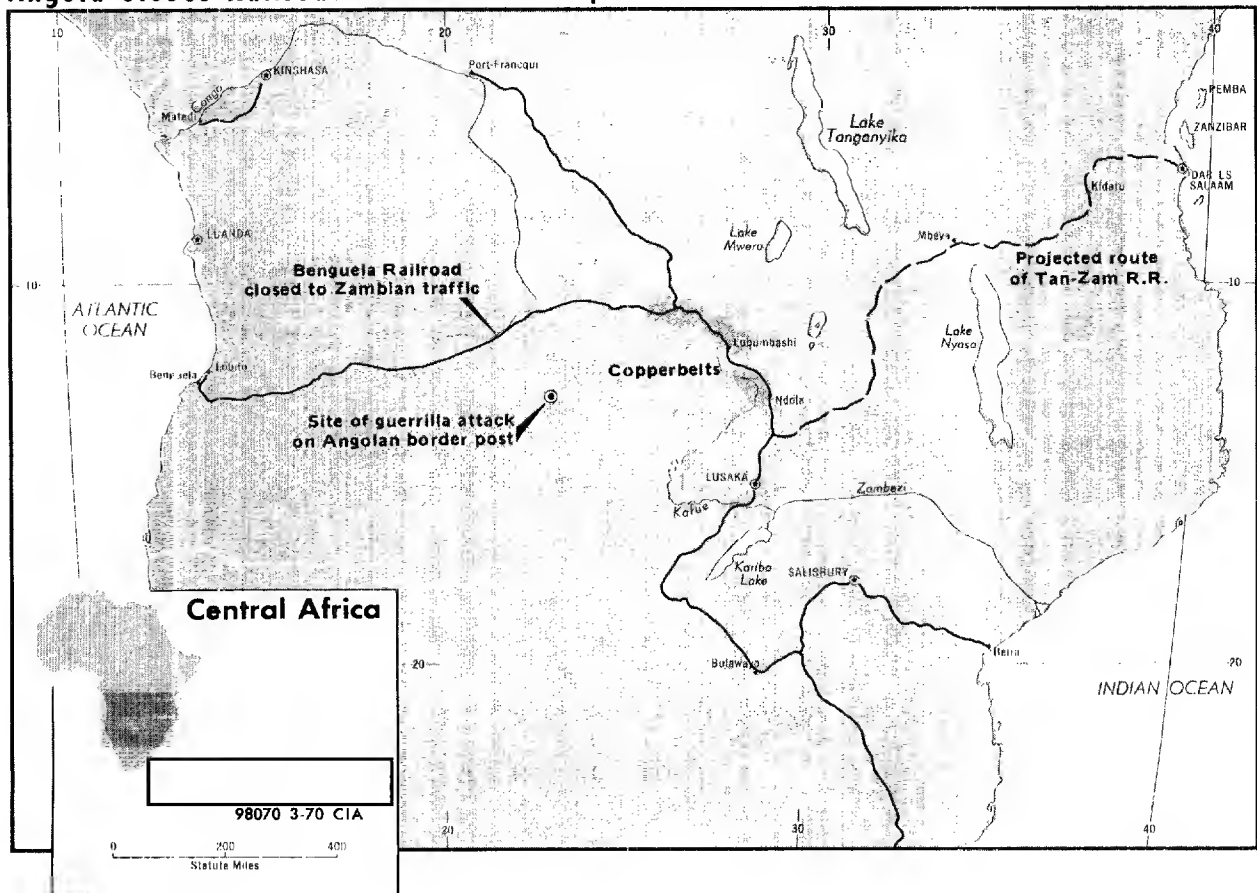
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Angola Closes Railroad to Zambia in Reprisal for Guerrilla Attack



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Iraq: Last weekend's cabinet reshuffle brought in five Kurdish ministers, rearranged a number of portfolios, and added three additional members of the country's ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). The inclusion of Kurds in the new government probably results from the agreement of 11 March between the Kurds and the Baghdad regime aimed at settling the country's protracted civil war. The Kurds in the cabinet, however, are second-level members of the Kurdish movement and did not receive key posts. The inclusion of additional members of the RCC probably signals the regime's intention to keep government affairs securely in Arab hands.

[REDACTED]

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Angola-Zambia: The Portuguese have again halted Zambian rail traffic through Portuguese Angola, the first ban since May 1969.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] After previous suspensions, Zambia, whose economy depends on copper exports, has bowed to economic reality and warned insurgent groups not to take actions that would endanger Zambia's use of Portuguese railroads. Presumably, Zambia will follow the same course this time.

[REDACTED] (Map) [REDACTED]

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